

City Manager's



Weekly Update Friday, January 11, 2008

Notes of interest:

Enterprise zone: Fran Aguilera of the county's economic development department says the state will announce the new enterprise zones for California next week.

All-Veterans Plaza: The City Manager met with Bob Bechill, head of the Lodi Area All-Veterans Plaza Foundation; John Ledbetter of the Lodi Community Foundation; and a representative of the Sacramento Regional Community Foundation (the LCF's oversight agency) to discuss the Plaza Foundation's dissolution and the plaza's future. A permanent endowment fund, which will be managed by the Lodi Community Foundation, has been set up to receive contributions to pay for ongoing maintenance and repairs of the plaza's hardware. The City Council will soon be asked to forgive the balance of constructions costs that were advanced for the project. By establishing an endowment, those residents who may be unable to donate to the plaza now will have an opportunity in the future, such as through an estate.

Kofu Skate Park: Parks and Rec will be asking the Recreation Commission to weigh in on the future of the Kofu Skate Park. The park needs \$12,000 to \$15,000 in repairs, with much of the damage caused by BMX bikers who aren't supposed to be using the ramps. The park is currently closed because of winter conditions, but repairs are needed before the park reopens. The fence surrounding the skate park has been damaged by skateboarders/BMXers wanting to use the facility when it's closed. Parks and Rec staff notes that the concrete pad is outfitted with holes that will accept basketball hoop poles.

Job training: The Lodi Chamber's industrial group subcommittee met with EUD and the San Joaquin Partnership regarding the lack of qualified workers. The Partnership will work with Delta College in hopes of creating a job-training program that will use Lodi's industrial businesses.

Homeless complaints: The clustering of homeless at the Lodi Public Library is now becoming a major source of complaints from the public. The complaints range from homeless people sleeping in the library to aberrant behavior, possibly the result of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The Police Department is treating this issue as a Problem Oriented Policing (POP) issue and has assigned to several officers to work with the problem along non-traditional methods. Also, the Police Department is providing training to library staff to help them deal with this issue. The library will be posting some signs with the hopes of curbing this growing problem, balancing the civil rights of the homeless with the rights of those who wish to use the library's informational services.

Homeless feeding: Concern continues to be expressed concerning feeding of the homeless near the Lodi Station. A church group is providing meals. The city does not oppose the group's mission of helping the less-fortunate, but the location is not ideal. Also, the Salvation Army reported a wheelchair-bound homeless man suffering from

obvious mental difficulties was recently “dumped” at its Sacramento Street facility by a Sacramento County organization.